about 535,40 bags of Agmark Atta in 10 Kg. consumer packs have been supplied to Fair Price Shops for distribution to the consumers Monitoring arrangements have been made by the Delhi Administration regarding the supply and availability of commodities at the PDS outlets. The progress in the lifting of Atta would be reviewed and depending on the consumer preference, Delhi Administration would make arrangements for sale of wholemeal atta to consumers.

Non-availability of quota to Fair price Shops

435. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fair Price Shops under the Public Distribution System in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and other places in the country have not received their full quota of essential commodities in time during the last few months causing thereby hardships to the consumers ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure timely availability of Essential Commodities to consumers through Fair Price Shops in the country ; particularly in Delhi and Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Allocations of PDS commodities are made by the Central Government to State Governments and UT Administrations in advance so that taey can make arrangements for lifting and distributing them. Many State Governments and UT Administrations, including Madhya Pradesh nd Delhi, lifted more quantity of a ce. wheat and levy sugar in 1991 as compared to 1990. PDS outlets in the country handle millions of tonnes of PDS commodities annually. However, in an operation of such a magnitude, occasional localised dislocations in the functioning of PDS cannot altogether be ruled out.

Regular monitoring of supply and availability of essential commodities under the PDS is done at various levels in the State Administrations, including Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. Action is also taken by them under the Essential Commodities Act against the malpractices detected. The State Governments and UT Administrations have been advised to set up Vigilance Committees at various levels, including village level.

Special courts in States under the Essential Commodities Act

436. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in some States, Special Courts have been constituted to try offenders booked under the Essential Commodities Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have advised all the State Governments including that of Madhya Pradesh to set up Special Courts to deal with hoarders and profiteers in essential commodities ;

(d) if so, what is the response of each State Government in this regard ; and

(e) if answer to part (c) be in negative, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a), (b) and (d) The information is being collected from State Governments/U.T.